

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD PITCHES ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT TO KEY U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Pushes for authorization in 2004 bill, says U.S. Corps of Engineers well suited to project

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) urged the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee to include the Arkansas Valley Conduit project in the Water Resources Development Act of 2004 (WRDA) at a hearing on that legislation Wednesday.

"I am working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Arkansas Valley Conduit, a pipeline that is being designed to provide the small, financially strapped communities along the lower Arkansas River in Colorado with safe, clean affordable water," Senator Allard said.

When completed, the Arkansas Valley Conduit will supply 16 towns and 25 water agencies in Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Prowers, Pueblo and Otero counties with clean, fresh water, serving a geographic area slightly larger than the state of New Hampshire.

"Projects such as the conduit are familiar to the Corps, which has been involved in water-supply projects since the 1850s. Today the Corps' reservoirs supply water to nearly 10 million people in 115 cities. The Corps is ideally suited to the Arkansas Valley Conduit project," Senator Allard said. "I believe the Corps is an organization committed to its mission."

"It is extremely important that the Water Resources Development Act move forward with expediency and that the members of this committee, through the Act, continue to allow the Corps the opportunity to build on its legacy of constructing critical components of our national water infrastructure," the Senator said.

The Senator testified at the committee today as part of his ongoing dialogue with both the Corps and the Bureau of Reclamation to move the conduit project forward. Senator Allard has submitted the project for inclusion in the WRDA.

"I am optimistic that we can get the conduit authorized this year," Senator Allard said. "I believe I can use my position as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to move this project forward faster."

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